

The Cougar Chronicle

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IMPORTANT DATES

May 1st	Chick-Fil-A Day Hwy 380 location
May 3rd	Field Day
May 3rd	Roughriders NTCA Night at the Park
May 9th	Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast
May 15th	Awards Chapel
May 16th	Last day of preschool
May 22nd	Kinder Readiness and Kinder Graduations
May 23rd	Mall Day and Invention Fair
May 24th	Last Day of school / early release

Voss' Voice

Well here we are at the end of April and schedules are really getting busy. As I finish my tenure at the end of April, I have several items I want to leave you with. First of all let me thank everyone for all their hard work in making our Spring Classic dinner a success. I would like to thank each of you by name and shake your hand. Let me just say a big thank you. We had so many wonderful volunteers who gave many hours and days to making the evening a fun and funding success.

Secondly, let me welcome our new Head of School, Aaron Chowning. Aaron is not new to NTCA, since his wife, Janet, worked here several years ago and he has a daughter enrolled now. Aaron brings a great deal of experience and energy to NTCA. I am excited to know that he will be taking NTCA to the next level. It has been my honor to have worked with him during the month of April. Be looking for great things with his leadership.

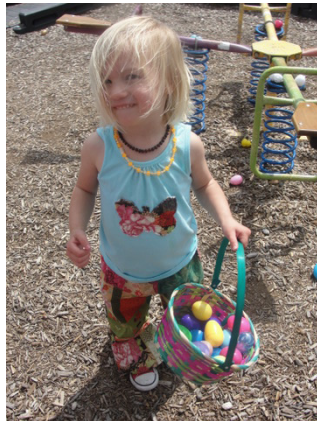
Lastly, since this is my last newsletter, (Aaron will assume full responsibilities May 1) I must express my gratitude. Being the Interim Head of School for NTCA has truly been a blessing to my life. Because of your encouragement and support, I will always count these six months as a highlight of my life. Thank you, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be a part of your family.



Why are these 5th & 6th graders doing a chicken dance?
Check page 5 to find out!

Cubs Corner

Even though we had a great week off for Spring Break, we still packed a lot of learning into March. Our Cougar Cubs learned all about eggs. We did a science experiment with eggs and vinegar. The shell came off and we could see what was on the inside. We also learned why we celebrate Easter. We talked about helping others. We had so much fun on our Easter egg hunt; there were so many eggs we had to find. We are still working on how to spell our names.



Students of the Week

February Virtue: Peace

March Virtue: Honesty

April Virtue: Friendship



February 25

Hagar, Joy
Humphrey, Ryan
Pettway, Morgan
Cristina, Trinity
Nicholls, Aspen
Mullins, Addyson

March 4

Ndofor, Valerie
Bartlett, Ella
Jones, Jackson
Shaw, Dylan
Chaffin, Benjamin
Willeford, Addison

March 18

Sawyer, Lucas
Dexter, Zaria
Zimmerman, Bradey
Evans, Peter
Nelson, Brooks
Stiles, Addyson

March 25

Carlson, Kalin
Hicks, Coleman
Kearl, Zachary
Dooley, Rex
Nicholls, Aspen
Marwitz, Natalie

April 1

Dooley, Mara
Eicher, Abbie
Chacon, Elisa
Bartlett, Lexie
Hicks, McKenna
Rojas, Mason

Cougar of the Quarter Melody Jones



Melody Jones, eighth grade, was given the award of Cougar of the Quarter. Melody is a very caring and compassionate student. She works very hard on all of her work and goes the extra mile. Melody has been one of our leaders in the class and continually tries to be a great example to her peers. Melody also has shown her servant heart on service days paying close attention to those she serves, and she is always willing to do anything to help others. This is Melody's first year at NTCA, and she has been such a joy to teach. We are so proud of her and her accomplishments.



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Middle School News: Student reporters are out and about at NTCA

Visiting Mrs. Voss

By Trinity Christina

All of the middle school students that have visited Mrs. Voss know it is lots of fun and what a great sweet personality she has! (A great personality, just like Mr. Voss!) Visiting her is one of my favorite things to do during service time! Some of the exiting things we do when we arrive is we give her some cards we made before we came! Every once and a while when we remember to bring a song book one of us carries it inside, hands it to her and lets her find a song for her to request! Once it's time to go she says thank you in her nice voice and we leave. As soon as we get back to school, I think we all feel good inside knowing we have made someone's day!

Underground Railroad experience:

By Schelby Sheffey

On Friday, 3/1/13, the 4th – 8th grade went back in time to the time of slavery, and all the hardships that went with it. All of 8th grade (James, Melody, and Schelby) had to come up with escape routes and turn their ideas into hand drawn pictures, puzzled into quilts. Their quilt was used as a secret map to go by. Everyone that wasn't in 8th grade represented a slave, and it was 8th grade's responsibility to get them from their classroom over to the playground (freedom) without getting caught by a slave owner (Mr. Voss, Mrs. Beach, and Mr. Mil). Mr. Voss was near impossible to get by with his sly eye and spy-like techniques. Melody came up with the clever idea to get trashcans and hide her slave in it to get past innocently, but Mrs. Beach caught on soon and it was turned useless, only 1 slave got passed the slave owners using this method. After tons of unsuccessful plans, Schelby finally found a route that worked and speedily got 3 slaves across; Abby, Trinity, and Wylie. Melody got Greg across with the trashcan plan. It felt really good after playing the same game last year and only getting Erika across. I can't wait to see next year's 8th graders

unique plans for this activity and what happens then, and all the future years here at N.T.C.A.

Vega Elementary – Fluency Friends

By Schelby Sheffey

The 6-8th graders have made a commitment to go to Vega Elementary on Wednesdays a few times each month to help 2nd graders with their reading and accomplishing their goals for reading. We call it "Fluency Friends," and we practice reading parts in a play each week. These students are very smart and educated already; their reading skills are spectacular. I know we will go far with these kids. They are fun to be around and improving on their skills every day. Now, through the end of May, each group is performing their play for each other. The 6-8th graders are working hard to help them in any way we can and we are proud of their continuous improvements.

Helping Mrs. Hart

By Jodee Newland

For two weeks, the fifth grade has been helping the KR and kindergarten students with reading and doing projects. The fifth graders thought it was fun listening to them read. The first week we read books the entire time, and it was fun listening to their reading skills grow more and more. For the second week, the fifth graders helped the kindergarteners and KR students with a super cute lady bug project. They used simple things such as: paper, tape, and pipe cleaners. The kids had a blast! (so did the 5th graders) Last week, we helped the kindergarten students do stations, such as, Play-Doh, computers, stamps, and drawing pages. We have been doing this for 3 weeks and we love it! We will be doing this for the rest of the school year, and we love watching them progress each time we visit.

Bikes and Scooters in PE

Students were piloting bikes and scooters all around the school as part of their PE unit.



Science at NTCA

Captain Science and his science students have been having a wonderful time with What? Chickens you say? Yes, indeed, the students have learned about life cycles thru their study of hatching chicks from eggs. The unit featured a visit from Ms. Heather Proctor of Texas Agrilife Extension discussing candling eggs to check for chick growth. While the first batch of eggs had a rather low hatch rate, a new batch produced all the fluffy chicks the students could hope for.

Students also created panorama posters, and went butterfly hunting.



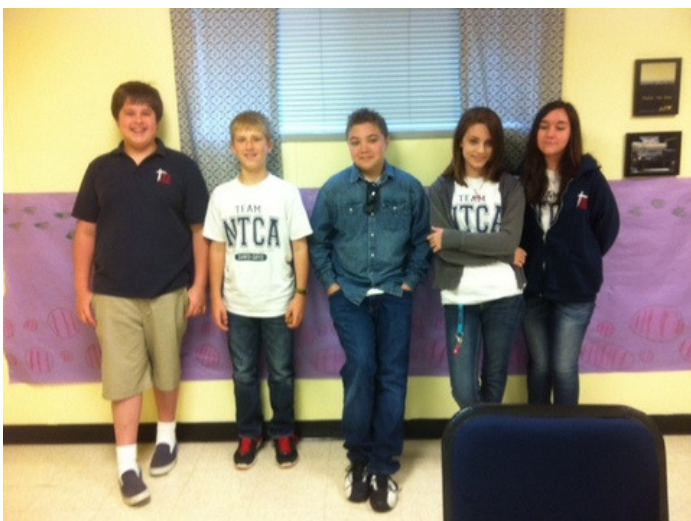
Chicks!



Fifth and sixth grades with their dinosaur footprint poster



Ms Proctor explains egg candling, with the incubator in the foreground



Seventh and eighth grades with their panoramic poster of footprints showing a carnivore attacking a herbivore.



Captain Science and the NTCA butterfly hunters on a field trip.

4H News

4-H is having a fantastic time this spring. We have had some team building events while encouraging other members of our group as they participate in local events. Masyn Hoke recently completed in the Collin County 4-H Fashion show and won 1st place in dressy construction division. During our last meeting, we planted new flowers in the garden in front of the school. Our last meeting for the 2012-13 school year will be May 8th.



Mr. Chowning's Message

Most of us are still trying to come to grips with the recent bombing in Boston. Unfortunately, violent events such as these are becoming more a part of our lives and thus, are becoming more and more a part of our conversations with our children.

Advancement in technology, including social media, combined with our nation's insatiable appetite for "more information right now" has created a perfect storm of exposure for our children well before they are ready cognitively, emotionally, and even spiritually. This presents a significant challenge for us as parents as we try to balance what is appropriate for our children and ascertain when certain conversations are needed.

Children's television host, Mr. Rogers, is quoted as saying, "When I was a boy and would see scary things on the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'"

I think that is a wonderful way of starting our conversations with our children. Yes, we live in a broken world, and yes, bad things happen, but look for the good. Look at what is good. When the veil of evil ascends, look past the shadows and look for the good. No matter how intense it is, darkness is always pierced by the light. What a lesson for our children.

As I type this, I call upon the community of NTCA to join in prayer. Pray specifically for the people in Boston, those who are injured and for those who have lost loved ones. But tonight, I also ask that you join me in praying for our children: the children of NTCA....your child(ren), my children, our children. May we come together in prayer as a family of believers. May we ask God for wisdom as we speak with our children. May we ask God for courage, as parents, to equip our children and train them up to be the "helpers" of this world. In that moment, when bad things happen, may they choose to be the ones that run to "help" and that they have the courage to do so. May our children carry the light in this world. May our children have the courage to hold onto that light and may they pierce that veil of darkness in the name of Jesus. They say that evil prevails when good men/women do nothing. I say evil is defeated when the children of good men and women have the courage and training to do what is right in His name.

We live in a broken world and Jesus is our hope, our children's hope.

In His name. Amen

It's time to enroll
for the 2013-2014
school year!

Tell your friends
about the great
education offered at
NTCA!

In the Classrooms

Kindergarten Readiness is beginning our Read to Understand series. We are working on getting ready for Kindergarten. We will celebrate Earth Day and continue with our Plants and Earth Units. It's busy busy in KR!!!

Kindergarten has been having a fun time learning about the story of Easter. We loved learning that Jesus lives! This week we are learning about all kinds of transportation in social studies. We even made a hot air balloon! In math we have been learning how to add up to twenty five and how to tell time. Reading groups are going really well and we are learning so many new words! We are looking forward to Park Day and a field trip in May to a play!

Second Grade just finished reading Flat Stanley by Jeff Brown. We made our own Flat People and sent them out to our friends and family across the country. We are excited to hear back from them. In Social Studies we have been researching and working on our President Reports. We are working with Mrs. Donna to put these into a Powerpoint Presentation.

Third Grade is having an awesome quarter. We are working on writing spectacular sentences that have fluency. We just completed a class alphabet book that focuses on vivid movement verbs. We continue to learn all there is to know about soil. We have been doing experiments to test which kinds of soil grow plants the best as well as testing our soils' nutrients and seeing the causes and effects of erosion. In math we have created array cards to understand multiplication and are playing games to make sure all multiplication facts are memorized. The books that were written by our third graders for the Young Authors' Contest were entertaining and enjoyed by many.

Spring Classic a Success

Thank You ...to all those who helped make our North Texas Christian Academy Spring Classic Dinner and the Silent Auction a great success. With a large number of NTCA supporters in attendance, **Gene Stallings** inspired us with "team work making the dream work." The evening was also made special by **Toni Young** introducing our first **Impact Award** recipient **Michelle McDougald**. As we end our 10th year, NTCA is no longer a dream but a strong reality. Friday night's event took place because of hard work by a lot of people. A big thank you to our students, parents, staff, faculty, and other NTCA supporters. We at NTCA are truly blessed to have your strong support and encouragement. Thank you.



Silent auction ready for bidding action. Classes donated themed baskets to the auction.



Students made pennants to decorate the Spring Classic tables



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We **learn** so that we can be better at whatever God has planned for us.

We **live** our lives, sharing our faith and knowledge with others.

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- ⇒ Scan your Albertsons Community Partners card when shopping
- ⇒ Collect Box Tops for Education.
- ⇒ Use your Target REDcard
- ⇒ Attend NTCA Day at the Hwy 380 Chick-fil-A on May 1st.

Mission Statement

NTCA is committed to preparing students for life and faith through a superior spiritual, scholastic, and social experience.

Preschool PE Class

Mrs. Pederson, aka Coach P, and the preschool PE classes had some fun with hula hoops.

